

Warwickshire County Veterans 1st Team – 2022-23

The Warwickshire County Veterans 1st team took part in matches on Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th December 2022, and Saturday 28th January 2023 at Woodfield Sports and Social Club in Wolverhampton.

The team was represented by Adrian Pilgrim, Ryan Stockham, Ben Willson and debutant Kate Hughes.

Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th December 2022.

Lincolnshire: draw 5-5

Ryan Stockham beat Mark Donoghue and Brett Heppenstall 3-1. Adrian Pilgrim beat John Hancock in 5 sets, but missed out against Donoghue in three close sets. Ben Willson had two close matches losing in 4 sets to Hancock and Heppenstall, however, along with Kate Hughes beat Jim Brewster and Lesley Keast 3-1. Hughes lost in 5 sets to Keast; as well as a mixed doubles loss with Pilgrim 10-12 in the 5th set. Pilgrim and Stockham secured the draw by winning the men's doubles in 4 sets.

Cheshire: lost 4-6

Adrian beat Tony Worthington 11-9 in the 5th set, having fought back from 0-2 sets down, however lost in three close sets to Kevin Dolder, who also beat Ryan Stockham in 4 sets. Stockham beat Tony Bates 3-0, who had previously beaten Willson 3-0 in his opening match. Hughes beat Jan Johns in 4 sets, and teamed up with Pilgrim to beat Johns and Bates in the first mixed doubles 3-1. Hughes and Willson lost the second mixed doubles in 4 sets to Johns and Dolder, who along with Worthington beat Pilgrim and Stockham in the men's doubles. The match finished a close 4-6 loss for the Warwickshire team.

Yorkshire 2nds: won 7-3

Warwickshire bounced back from the loss to Cheshire, by beating Yorkshire 2nds. Pilgrim and Stockham both won their two singles matches, as well as teaming up once again to win the men's doubles. Hughes beat Janet Adams in 5 sets, and alongside Ben Willson beat Darren Pace and Adams 3-1. Hughes and Pilgrim lost in three close sets to Mark Land and Adams. Willson missed out on his singles, losing to Pace 0-3, and Richard Lightowler 1-3.

Saturday 28th January 2023

Devon: won 10-0

A great start for the Warwickshire team with a 10-0 win against a strong Devonshire team. Pilgrim fought back from 0-2 down to beat Michael Hugh 11-8 in the 5th set. Stockham beat Paul Laverty and Kevin Nicholls in 4 sets, as did Hughes against Sonja Ryland. The remaining matches were all 3-0 wins to the Warwickshire team.

Cambridgeshire: lost 4-6

An unlucky start for the Warwickshire team with the first three men's singles, and a mixed doubles going to Cambridge, each in the 5th set. Willson also lost to Jaroslaw Chrzanowski 3-0. Hughes got the Warwickshire team on the score board with a 3-0 win against Carrie Cope, which was followed by another doubles win for Pilgrim and Stockham, as well as their next respective singles wins. Unfortunately, Chrzanowski and Cope were too strong for Willson and Hughes and the team win went to Cambridge.

Worcestershire: won 8-2

The final match of the season was against local rivals Worcestershire. Pilgrim beat Steve Horton 3-1, whilst Ben Willson beat Adrian Jones 3-0, to give Warwickshire a 2-0 lead. Worcestershire clawed one back with Jason Thompson beating Ryan Stockham in 4 sets. Hughes and Willson beat Jones and Qian Zhang 3-0 in the first mixed doubles. Horton beat Willson 3-0. All the remaining matches went to Warwickshire, Hughes beat Zhang 3-0. Pilgrim and Stockham beat Thompson and Horton in three close sets. Stockham beat Jones 3-1, whilst Pilgrim beat Thompson 3-1. Stockham and Hughes teamed up to win the last mixed doubles against Thompson and Zhang 3-0.

Warwickshire finished the season with three wins, one draw and two losses, securing a total of 7 points, and a second-place finish! Thank you to Inky Moss and Alan Buttle for their support in umpiring throughout all the matches.